♫ [illegible] sound ♫
HELIOS:FEMINA
Beyond the Veil

An Adam's apple,

...now I know why my voice sounds so different.

I should check just to be sure

Yup. I'm a man.

Red, this is kind of awkward.
Welcome to the other side,

Rhea, or should I say,
...Rey.
Bebo?
Where are you?
Did your

gender change too?
A potato is always a potato.

Try and see beyond gender, and you will understand,
...how everything has feminine and masculine qualities.
Sun and moon, light and dark,

...a line and a circle.
This... is so... confusing.
I know I'm a man, but...
...I still feel,

...like a girl.
You are how you feel.
Your inner world is more real,
...than your outer

world.
Perhaps being a man will bring you closer to your truth.
To be honest,
...I've always

wondered what it was like,
...to be a guy.
Not just some guy, a Prince!
His Royal Highness, Prince of Auroris!
HAHAHA!

Hey! It has a nice ring to it!
Arret?

From what
Bailey described,

he reminds me so much
...of Terra.
Sigh...
Forgive me, Terra.
Your

majesty,
Please, Arret...
...there's no need for such formalities.
Just call me Rey

Thank you Rey,
...and um, greetings to your garment as well?
Who is she?
She, your

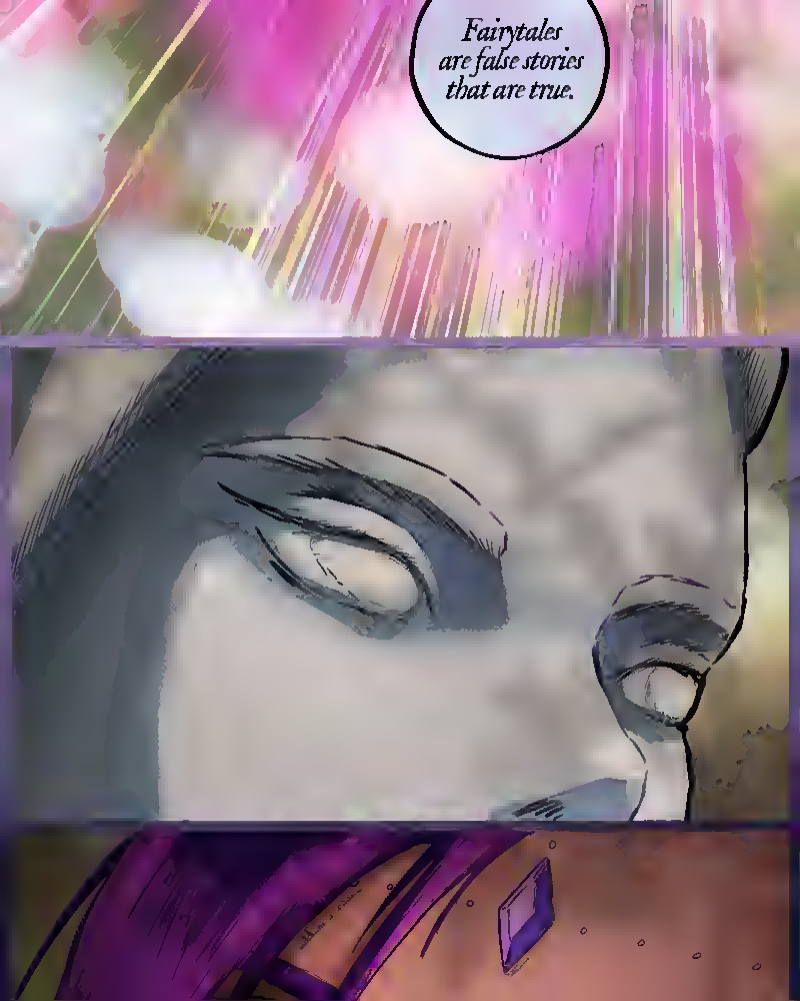
majesty, is our grace,
...Princess Sah of Helias.
Sadly, in 10 moon cycles,
...she will be given to the dragon in exchange for peace

Your highness,

...are you here to save the princess from her demise?

Ahhh, the hero's journey.

Hero's journey?
This feels more like a fairytale.


Fairytales are false stories that are true.

Yes,
...I'm here to save her.

Then I am forever in your debt.

...my Prince.
I'm afraid we have never been formally introduced.

Abbh,

my apologies Princess.
My name is Rhea.
Rhea, sir?
Reyyy-ah-Auroris...

Ahem, Prince Rey, from Auroris.
Your majesty, I am Princess Sah...

...I graciously welcome you to the Kingdom of Helias,

...and your rather *peculiar* guest as well.

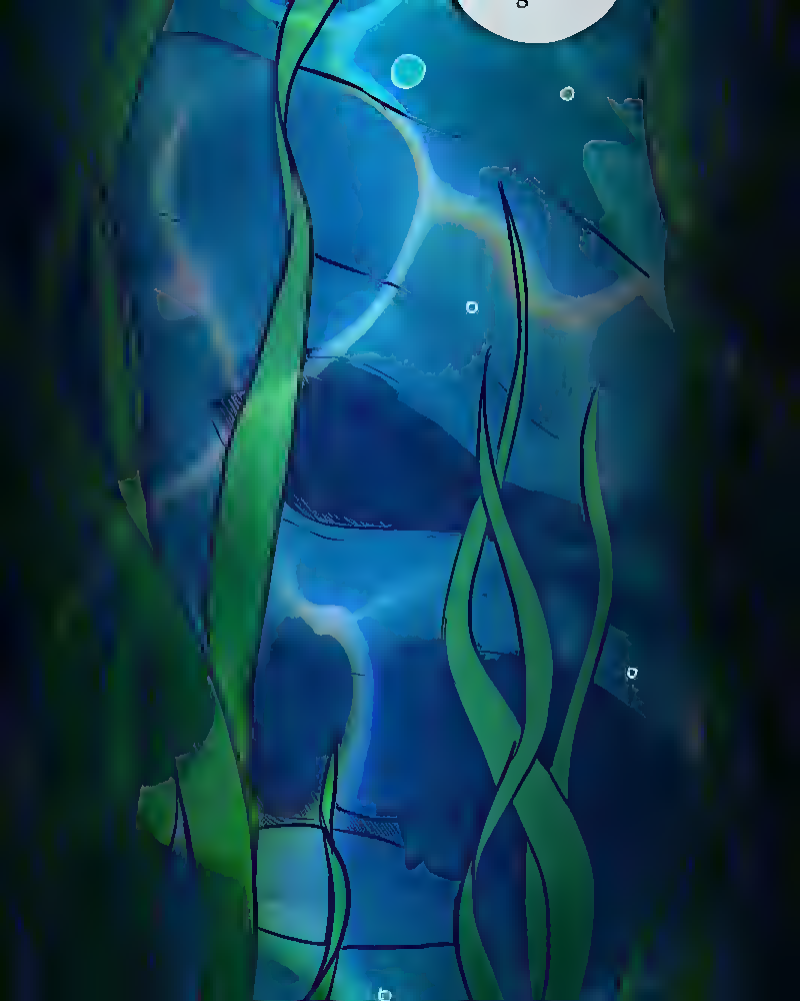
Okay, just to be clear,
...in order to slay a dragon,

the sword itself has to be made from a dragon's skull?
Where can I get my hands on this dragon blade?
All dragon blade relics have

been destroyed by the dragons themselves.
Sadly, no one has been able to forge another sword.

Every blacksmith has tried and failed.
A dragon skull is impossible to melt.
Then how were they made

before?
Very few still know.
The ancient art of dragon swordsmithing has been largely forgotten.



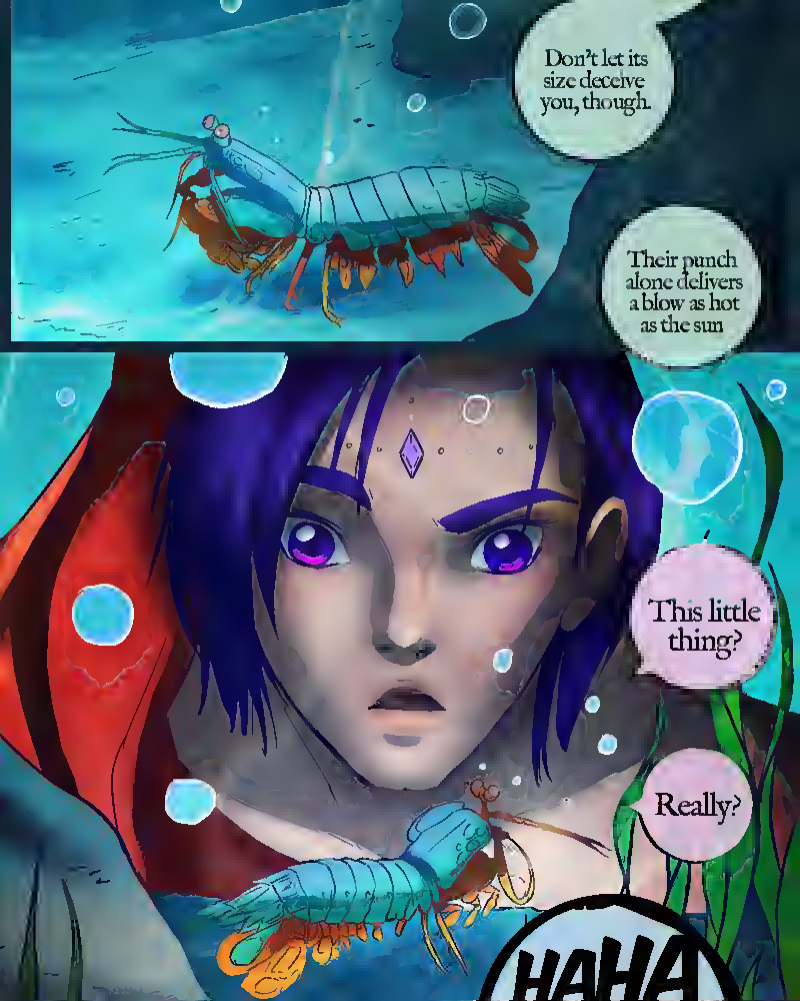
There she is.

It's massive! How did you get your hands on this?

It's been in our family collection for generations
HAHA!
Bebo?

What's so funny?
Oh, I was just having a conversation with Manty, the sea locust.
Sea locust?
You're correct, Rey!

That's a sea locust. Also known as a Mantis shrimp
This fella is capable of seeing 9 more colors than the human eye

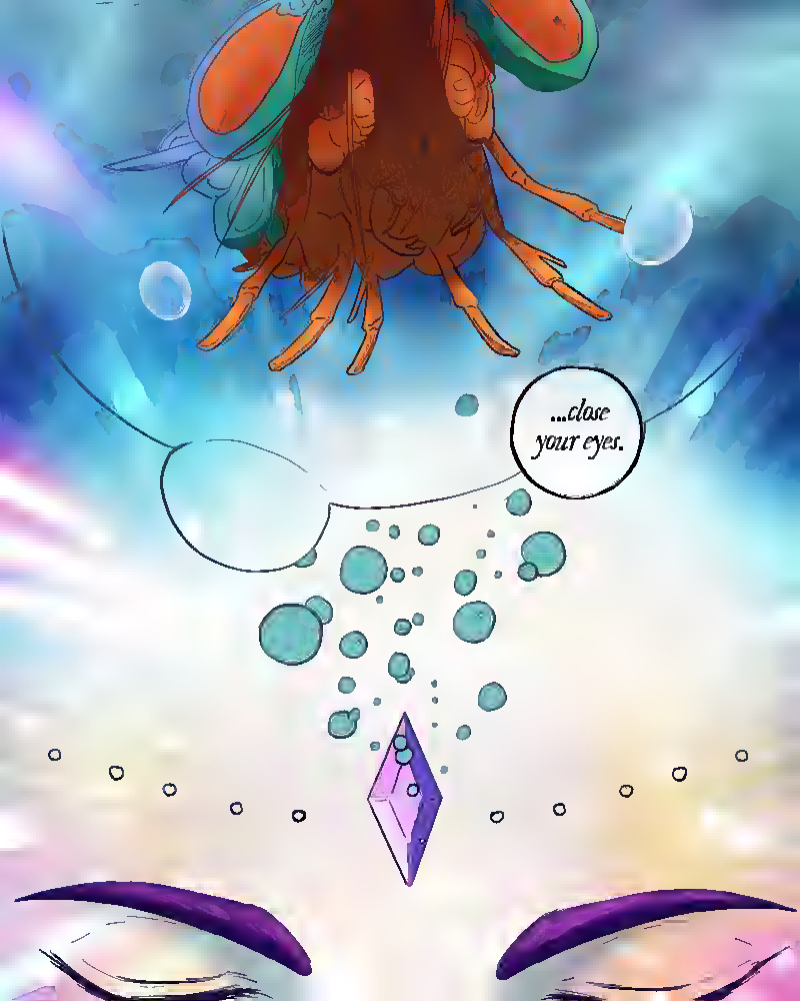

Don't let its size deceive you, though.
Their punch alone delivers a blow as hot as the sun
This little thing?
Really?
HAHA

HAHA HA!
Now what are you laughing at?
Manty said, "If he wanted to hear from an ass, he'd fart."
Wow guys, I just got insulted by this shrimp.

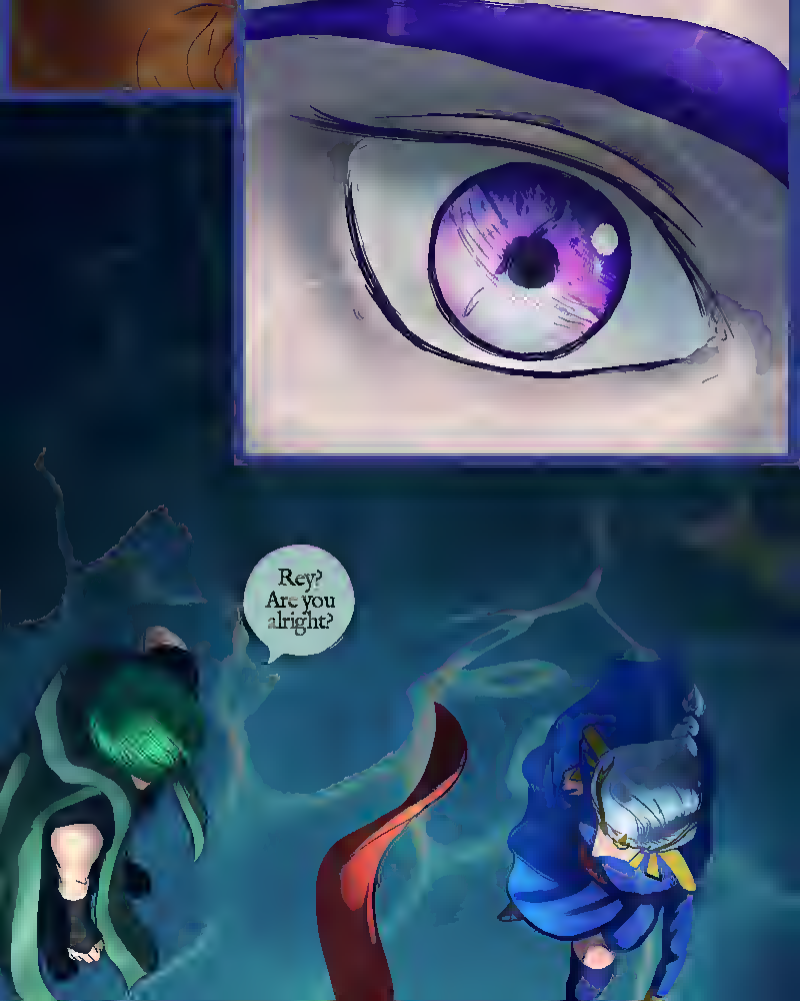
Sorry sir, that was a little insensitive of me.

Hmph!
Apology accepted, human.
Cool.
Hi there Manty. I'm Rey.
I'm quite envious that you

can see more colors than us.
I can give you this ability,
...only if you set me free in the ocean where a creature like me belongs.
Fair enough If I can see more colors, I promise to free you.
Then,


...close your eyes.

Now,
open.


Rey? Are you alright?

Your grace?
Princess Sah?

May I request a favor?
This mantis shrimp,

I
believe he's
homesick.

Your majesty.
You honored your word, so in return,
I shall honor you with a divine gift.

To see beyond the veil.
Use it wisely, my Prince.

It's beautiful.

Thank you, my friend.

WHISTLES
Look at all those colors.

Now *that's* a beautiful sunset.
If only you could see from my eyes, Arret.

Why's that, Rey?

Imagine,

seeing more colors,

patterns,

...and

vibrations.

Still...

something
feels...

incomplete.

Follow us on: @HeliosFemina

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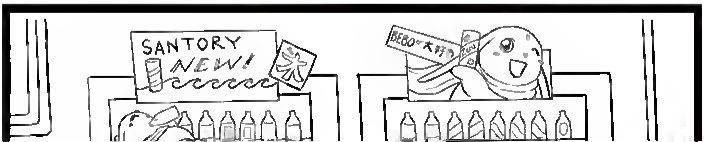
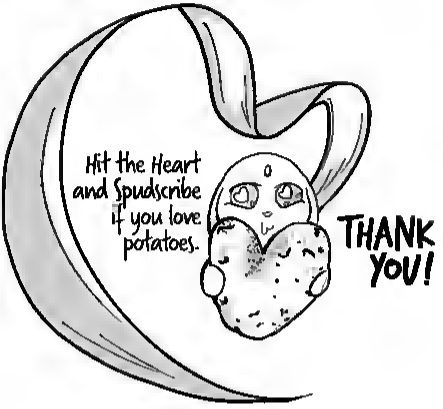


The story continues!
Come back in 2 weeks for a new chapter.
The entire Pooduction team
is currently in Tokyo for off-site work.
We'll be writing and drawing
in the meantime.
Thank you so much for your readership
and inspiration!
x Poo team



A GOLDEN POODU